

AMENDED CLAIMS

[received by the International Bureau on 25 March 1998 (25.03.98);
original claims 1-19 replaced by new claims 1-19 (5 pages)]

1. Video decoder apparatus for decoding input video data encoded in a plurality of encoding formats, comprising:

a first processor for decoding MPEG compatible data identified by a first data identifier to provide a first decoded video output;

a second processor for decoding data encoded in an Internet compatible data format, said Internet data being identified by a second data identifier to provide a second decoded video output; and

a display processor for formatting said first and second decoded video outputs for display as a composite video image wherein

the proportion of said video image contributed by said first and second decoded outputs is variable and said first and second data identifiers are derived from program map information associating said Internet data with video program content represented by said first decoded video output.

2. Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

said first and second processors decode data separated using said first and second data identifiers from a single composite input datastream.

3. Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

said first processor decompresses MPEG compatible compressed data, and

said decompressed data is synchronized with second decoded video output using timing data in said MPEG compatible data.

4. Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

said second decoded video output represents an index of web page information.

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5. Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the format of said Internet compatible data includes data encoded in at least one of a) TCP/IP format, b) HTML format, c) Java™ format, and d) ActiveX™ format.

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6. Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said proportion of said video image contributed by said first decoded output is variable between 0 and 100%.

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7. Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said display processor stores said composite video image in a pixel memory.

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8. Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said display processor formats said first and second decoded outputs as separate images within said composite video image and said proportion of said composite video image contributed by said first and second decoded outputs is variable in response to at least one of (a) User selection, (b) formatting data received in said input video data, and (c) pre-programmed processor instruction.

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9. A method for decoding image representative input video data encoded in a plurality of encoding formats, comprising the steps of:
deriving first and second data identifiers from program map information associating Internet data with video program content within said input video data;

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identifying MPEG compatible first image representative data using said first data identifier;

identifying second image representative data encoded in an Internet compatible data format using said second data identifier;

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decoding said identified first image representative data using a first MPEG data decoding method to provide a first decoded output;

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decoding said identified second image representative data using a second Internet data decoding method to provide a second decoded output; and

formatting said first and second decoded outputs for display as a composite video image wherein the proportion of said video image contributed by said first and second decoded outputs is variable.

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10. A method according to claim 9, further including the step of:

separating said first and second image representative data from a single composite input datastream.

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11. Apparatus according to claim 9, including the step of determining whether a User is authorized to access said first image representative data and wherein said step of decoding said first image representative data occurs in response to said authorization.

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12. Apparatus according to claim 11, including the step of decrypting said first image representative data in response to said User authorization.

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13. A method according to claim 9, including the steps of
receiving program guide information and
receiving web page information for display, said received
web page information being selected from said received program guide
10 information.

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14. A method according to claim 9, including the step of
receiving an index of web page information and including
the step of
receiving said second image representative data selected
from said index.

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15. A method according to claim 9, including the step of
decompressing MPEG compatible compressed first image
representative data to provide said first decoded output.

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16. A method according to claim 9, including the step of
decoding second image representative data formatted in at
least one of a) TCP/IP format, b) HTML format, c) Java™ format, and d)
ActiveX™ format.

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17. A method according to claim 9, including the step of
varying said proportion of said video image contributed by
said first decoded output in response to at least one of (a) User selection,
(b) formatting data received in said input video data, and (c) pre-
programmed processor instruction.

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18. A method for decoding image representative input video data encoded in an Internet compatible data format, comprising the steps of:

10 identifying first image representative data encoded in an Internet compatible data format using a first data identifier;

decoding said identified first image representative data using an Internet data decoding method to provide an index of web page information associated with video program content in said input video data;

15 identifying second image representative data encoded in an Internet compatible data format using a second data identifier, said second image representative data representing a web page selected from said index of web page information;

20 decoding said identified second image representative data using said Internet data decoding method to provide said selected web page; and

formatting said selected web page for display.

25 19. A method according to claim 18, including the step of

deriving first and second data identifiers from program map information associating said selected web page with said index of web page information.